

Voting Equipment Selection Committee
April 15, 2004
Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance:

Val Oveson, State CIO
Amy Naccarato, Director of Elections
Ray Palmer, Governor's Office IT
LuAnn Adams, Box Elder County Clerk
Sherrie Swensen, Salt Lake County Clerk
Linda Lunceford, Weber County Clerk
Robert Pero, Carbon County Clerk
David Yardley, Iron County Clerk
Mark Langston, Davis County IT
Neil Peterson, Utah County IT
Steve Harmsen, Salt Lake County Council
Liz McCoy, Disability Law Center
Bill Gibson, Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Thom Roberts, Attorney General's Office
Debbie Gundersen, Office of State Purchasing

Guests:

Michael Barnes, Georgia's Sec. of State Office

I. Welcome

The Committee was called to order by Val Oveson at 1:08 p.m.

II. Approval the minutes of April 1, 2004 meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Guest Speaker

Chair Val Oveson introduced Michael Barnes of the Georgia Secretary of State office. After a brief presentation, the meeting was opened up for questions.

Michael discussed the background of Georgia's process of selecting voting equipment. He also discussed two things that he would do differently if they were going through the process again. First, he suggested that Utah handle the voter education on its own and not contract with the vendors for this. Second, he suggested that the RFP include a detailed breakdown of all costs, not just costs of the voting equipment, but all things that go along with it.

Michael discussed the need for a separation between the evaluation committee

members and the vendors. He also discussed some of the issues that Georgia has faced after the electronic voting equipment has been implemented. He stated that there have been a large number of positive responses to the new equipment. Michael discussed the fact that there were no major problems with the voting equipment.

While the State of Georgia purchased the equipment, they require that the counties maintain and store the equipment. They use Optical Scan for the absentee voting system. If there were a problem with the new voting equipment, the state could switch over to the Optical Scan system quickly.

The committee expressed concerns over modem results on election night. Michael stated that they have always been clear that modem results are unofficial results and are subject to change.

Debbie Gundersen of the Office of State Purchasing joined the discussion. Debbie spoke about the differences between a multi-step bid process and an RFP process. The committee, it seems, is leaning towards the RFP process since price does not become the determining factor under this scenario.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. Committee members were asked to return at 5:30 p.m. for the public hearing.